(b) in case the reports are factually correct the measures intended to be taken to protect agricultural operations and environmental conditions in the area; and

(c) whether it is to be ensured that all proposals for expansion of capacity in the infrastructural sectors should be cleared in future be first cleared with the Department of Environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of 616 hectares of land acquired by the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, about 62 hectares are under cultivation/horticulture. The proponents propose to raise a green belt around the periphery of the complex. Further, various conditions andenvironmental safeguards have been stipulated by Ministry of Environment and Forests while according environmental clearance. These stipulations are required to be implemented effectively by the proponents.

(c) The requirements of seeking environmental clearance for expansion projects is governed under the provisions of the EIA Notification of 27th January, 1994, as amended on 4th May, 1994.

Doing away with the markets in wild life

1275. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have urged the developed and developing nations to do away with markets dealing in wild life;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of the other countries in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) In order to control and regulate global trade in Wildlife, India became a party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1976. This Convention provides for prohibition of international trade of specially endangered species falling under Appendix-I and strict regulation and control of such trade with respect to wild animals falling under Appendix II and III. India is pursuing the cause of conservation of various speies at global level through this Convention. At present 128 countries are Parties to this Convention, and member countries cannot import or export the species listed under CITES without proper permits.

India has also entered into a Protocol on Tiger Conservation with China, and is promoting the establishment of the Global Tiger Forum, covering 13 range States, with a special view to protect the tiger and its habitat and to do away with the illegal market in trade of tiger parts.

Poaching of endangered species

1276 SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poaching has threatened the survival of many endangered animal species and has assumed alarming proportions in the recent past due to the increase in armed militancy in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to implement the laws against poaching to curb this menace and what is the rate of conviction in such cases?